

Message Text

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44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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P R 201100Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4412

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0359

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OWIP, GR, TU, LU

SUBJ: BREAKFAST WITH PRIME MINISTER THORN

REF: LUXEMBOURG 0355

FOLLOWING IS THE EMBASSY'S FORECAST OF THE SUBJECTS WE EXPECT
PRIME MINISTER THORN TO RAISE WITH THE PRESIDENT ON MAY 29:

1. US/EC RELATIONS: THE QUESTION OF US/EC RELATIONS WILL
UNDOUBTEDLY BE AT THE CENTER OF THORN'S PREOCCUPATIONS.
THIS WAS THE SUBJECT OF THORN'S MAY 14 MESSAGE TO THE
SECRETARY (REPORTED IN LUXEMBOURG 0349 NOTAL). THORN MAY
SEEK REASSURANCE THAT RECENT EVENTS IN INDOCHINA AND THE
MIDDLE EAST, AND THE SUBSEQUENT REEVALUATION OF U.S. FOREIGN
POLICY IN CERTAIN AREAS OF THE WORLD, WILL NOT RESULT IN A
WEAKENING OF US/EC TIES. IN THE WEEKS BEFORE HIS MEETING
WITH THE PRESIDENT, THORN WILL HAVE HAD LONG PRIVATE TALKS
WITH WILSON, CHIRAC, TINDEMANS, LUNS AND SCHMIDT. HE SEEMS
TO BELIEVE THAT THE TIME HAS COME TO EXPAND US/EC RE-
LATIONS SO AS TO INCLUDE CONCRETE PLANS FOR JOINT ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT, FOR EXAMPLE IN THE CIVIL AND MILITARY AVI-
ATION FIELDS. EXTREMELY ANXIOUS TO PLAY A PERSONAL ROLE
IN ANY EXPANSION OF THE US/EC DIALOGUE, ESPECIALLY DURING
HIS PRESIDENCY OF THE E.C. DURING JANUARY-JUNE 1976,
THORN WILL ASK FOR DETAILS ON HOW THE U.S. FORESEES
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COOPERATION WITH THE E.C. IN THE COMING MONTHS. HE

WOULD LIKELY BE VERY WILLING TO PLAY ALMOST ANY ROLE IN THIS DIALOGUE THAT THE U.S. MIGHT PROPOSE.

2. UNGA PRESIDENCY: THORN IS THE LEADING CANDIDATE TO RECEIVE THE WEO GROUP NOMINATION FOR THE NEXT UNGA PRESIDENCY, STARTING IN SEPTEMBER 1975. HE HAS REQUESTED CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE FROM THE U.S. ON THE PROCEDURAL AND SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES HE WILL HAVE TO FACE AS UNGA PRESIDENT, AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUM HAS PROMISED TO COME TO LUXEMBOURG TO INITIATE THESE BRIEFINGS AS SOON AS THORN RECEIVES THE WEO GROUP ENDORSEMENT. THORN MAY ALSO MAKE A MILD PLEA FOR U.S. SUPPORT OF HIS CANDIDACY, ALTHOUGH HE HAS BEEN TOLD THAT IN SUCH CASES IT IS U.S. POLICY TO WAIT FOR REGIONAL GROUPS CHOICES BEFORE FORMALLY COMMITTING OURSELVES TO SUPPORT A CANDIDATE.

3. FRANCO-AMERICAN RELATIONS: THORN CONSIDERS HIMSELF AN EXPERT ON FRENCH GOVERNMENT ATTITUDES, AND HE WILL PROBABLY BE ANXIOUS TO DISCUSS FRANCO-AMERICAN RELATIONS AS WELL AS RECENT FRENCH BEHAVIOR IN THE E.C. AND IN NATO. THORN HAS OFTEN VOLUNTEERED HIMSELF AS A MEDIATOR WHEN FRANCO-AMERICAN DISAGREEMENTS TROUBLED ATLANTIC RELATIONSHIPS. THORN MIGHT EXTEND HIS DISCUSSION OF FRANCE TO COVER PARIS' RECENT INITIATIVES IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND ON INTERNATIONAL ENERGY QUESTIONS.

4. VISIT TO USSR: THORN WILL ACCOMPANY THE GRAND DUKE TO THE USSR DURING THE PERIOD JUNE 5-10, 1975, AND HE WILL PROBABLY ASK THE PRESIDENT FOR ADVICE ON WHAT HE SHOULD EXPECT IN TALKS WITH BREZHNEV AND KOSYGIN. THORN MIGHT ALSO APPRECIATE BEING TOLD THAT THE U.S. BELIEVES THE ALLIES WOULD BE INTERESTED IN RECEIVING A BRIEFING BY THORN IN NATO ON THE RESULTS OF HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIET LEADERS.

5. COMMENTS: (1) UNLESS SPECIFICALLY ENJOINED FROM DOING SO, THORN WILL MAKE THE INFORMATION HE RECEIVES FROM THE PRESIDENT AVAILABLE TO HIS E.C. PARTNERS. (2) THORN WILL BE ANXIOUS FOR HIS MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT TO RECEIVE AS MUCH PRESS ATTENTION AS POSSIBLE. SINCE HIS OWN PRESS CONFIDENTIAL

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STAFF MAY NOT EVEN BE PRESENT WHEN THE MEETING TAKES PLACE, THORN WOULD CERTAINLY APPRECIATE ASSISTANCE FROM U.S. OFFICIALS IN ENCOURAGING THE PRESS TO COVER THE MAY 29 MEETING.FARKAS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HEAD OF GOVERNMENT, MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LUXEMB00359
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750176-0918
From: LUXEMBOURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750536/aaaabggh.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LUXEMBOURG 0355
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 APR 2003 by Izenbel0>; APPROVED <03 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BREAKFAST WITH PRIME MINISTER THORN
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, LU, (FORD, GERALD R), (THORN, GASTON)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006